

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0029602-11-0

Permittee: Mercer Sanitary District No. 1, 5054 N US Highway 51, Mercer, WI, 54547

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Mercer Sanitary District No 1, 4651 N. Fierick Road

Receiving Water And Location: The groundwater of the Flambeau Flowage Watershed within the Upper Chippewa Drainage Basin in Iron County

Brief Facility Description and Summary of Proposed Changes: Mercer Sanitary District No.1 owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system. The plant designed to treat 82,700 gallons per day, currently treats an average of 41,000 gallons per day (2017 – 2021 data). The system consists of screening, grit removal and sequencing batch reactors, followed by seepage cells. In the batch reactors (a type of activated sludge treatment), naturally-occurring bacteria and organisms already in the wastewater break down organic matter in the waste stream. The treated water is discharged to the seepage cells, where it is further filtered by the sandy soil in the bottom of the cells as it percolates through the soil eventually reaching the groundwater. There are three groundwater monitoring wells in the vicinity of the system. Groundwater samples are taken from them quarterly to determine if the discharge is having any localized impact on groundwater quality. Solids generated during treatment (sludge) are given further treatment in an aerobic digester and then landspread as a soil conditioner on Department approved cropland.

It is the Department's intention to renew the permit for another term. The proposed new permit expiration date will be March 31, 2027. Appropriate discharge limitations, monitoring requirements, and reporting conditions will be included in the permit. Changes from the previous permit include: [1] The groundwater Preventative Action Limit and Enforcement Standard for Ammonia was updated to meet ch NR 140 Wis. Adm. Code. [2] The parameters dissolved alkalinity and total hardness monitoring have been removed. [3] Installation of a new upgradient background well is required. [4] a schedule to work toward improving Total Nitrogen levels and [5] a schedule to submit a new Land Treatment Management Plan

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Monica Begley, DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI 54501, (715) 495-1336, monica.begley@wisconsin.gov

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the above named permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued. Where designated as a reviewable surface water discharge permit, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is allowed up to 90 days to submit comments or objections regarding this permit determination. If no comments are received on the proposed permit from anyone, including U.S. EPA, the permit will be issued as proposed.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule a public informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Requests for a public informational hearing shall state the following: the name and address of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the interest in the proposed permit of the person(s) requesting the hearing; the reasons for the request; and the issues proposed to be considered at the hearing.

Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be inspected and copied at either the above named permit drafter's office or the above named basin engineer's office, Monday through Friday (except holidays), between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Please call the permit drafter or basin engineer for directions to their office location, if necessary. Information on this permit action may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter at (715) 635-4131 or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Permit information is also available on the internet at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.

NAME OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: Iron County Miner

ADDRESS OF PUBLISHING NEWSPAPER: 216 Copper St., Hurley, WI 54534

Date Notice Issued: February 24, 2022

STREAMLINED PUBLIC NOTICE VERSION FOR NEWSPAPER

STATE OF WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO REISSUE A WISCONSIN POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (WPDES) PERMIT No.WI-0029602-11-0

FOR THE COMPLETE PUBLIC NOTICE AND DETAILS GO TO THE WEB LINK:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/wastewater/PublicNotices.html>

Permittee: Mercer Sanitary District No. 1, 5054 N US Highway 51, Mercer, WI, 54547

Facility Where Discharge Occurs: Mercer Sanitary District No 1, 4651 N. Fierick Road

Receiving Water And Location: The groundwater of the Flambeau Flowage Watershed within the Upper Chippewa Drainage Basin in Iron County

Brief Facility Description: Mercer Sanitary District No.1 owns and operates a domestic wastewater treatment system that consists of screening, grit removal, sequencing batch reactors and seepage cells. There are three groundwater monitoring wells to determine if the discharge is having any impacts on groundwater quality. Sludge is aerobically digested, landspread on approved cropland.

Permit Drafter's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Sheri A. Snowbank, DNR, 810 W Maple St, Spooner, WI, 54801, (715) 635-4131, Sheri.Snowbank@wisconsin.gov

Basin Engineer's Name, Address, Phone and Email: Monica Begley, DNR, 107 Sutliff Avenue, Rhinelander, WI, 54501, (715) 495-1336, monica.begley@wisconsin.gov

The Department has tentatively decided that the above specified WPDES permit should be reissued.

Persons wishing to comment on or object to the proposed permit action, or to request a public hearing, may write to the Department of Natural Resources at the permit drafter's address. All comments or suggestions received no later than 30 days after the publication date of this public notice will be considered along with other information on file in making a final decision regarding the permit. Anyone providing comments in response to this public notice will receive a notification of the Department's final decision when the permit is issued.

The Department may schedule a public informational hearing if requested by any person and shall schedule an informational hearing if a petition requesting a hearing is received from 5 or more persons or if response to this notice indicates significant public interest pursuant to s. 283.49, Stats. Information on requesting a hearing is at the above web link.

Limitations and conditions which the Department believes adequately protect the receiving water are included in the proposed permit. Information on file for this permit action, including the draft permit, fact sheet and permit application, may be reviewed on the internet at the above web link or may be inspected and copied at the permit drafter's office during office hours. Information on this permit may also be obtained by calling the permit drafter or by writing to the Department. Reasonable costs (15 cents per page for copies and 7 cents per page for scanning) will be charged for information in the file other than the public notice, permit and fact sheet. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodation, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be made to qualified individuals upon request.